Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 16 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013578.

Please add new claims 17 to 28 as indicated in the listing of claims below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 16 (canceled).

Claim 17 (new): A method for manufacturing a foamed polyurethane molded article, the method comprising:

introducing an expandable polyurethane reactive mixture into a mold and evacuating the mold, the mold having a top mold region;

expanding the reactive mixture expands so as to fill the mold;

exhausting gases liberated during the expanding step through one or more expansion openings disposed at one or more points of maximum height in the top mold half, each of the expansion openings being closeable by a needle valve disposed in a valve capillary;

sensing a temporal pressure characteristic in the valve capillary;

controlling each of the one or more needle valves using the temporal pressure characteristic, so as to close the respective expansion opening in response to a pressure drop occurring when the expanding reactive mixture penetrates into the valve capillary;

opening the mold; and

ejecting the molded article.

Claim 18 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the evacuating of the mold is performed using the one or more the needle valves.

Claim 19 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the introducing step is also

performed using the needle valves.

Claim 20 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the ejecting of the molded article is performed using the needle valves to act upon the mold with compressed air.

Claim 21 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein each of the one or more needle valves is supplied with at least one of negative pressure and compressed air from a shared media supply.

Claim 22 (new): The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the one or more needle valves includes a plurality of needle valves and further comprising adjusting a negative pressure to each of the needle valves individually.

Claim 23 (new): A device comprising:

a mold having a top mold region and configured to receive an expandable polyurethane reactive mixture;

a suction opening configured to evacuate the mold;

a vent configured to vent the mold;

one or more expansion openings disposed at one or more points of maximum height in the top mold region, each of the expansion openings being formed by a needle valve disposed in valve capillaries, wherein the needle valves are closable in response to a pressure drop occurring when the expandable polyurethane reactive mixture penetrates into the valve capillary.

Claim 24 (new): The device as recited in claim 23, wherein the suction opening is likewise formed by a respective one of the needle valves.

Claim 25 (new): The device as recited in claim 23, wherein the needle valve enable the mold to be acted upon with compressed air.

Claim 26 (new): The device as recited in claim 23, further comprising a four-way valve, and wherein the at least one needle valve is connected in series to the four-way valve, the four-way

valve capable of establishing a communication to at least one of a negative pressure source, a positive pressure source and atmospheric pressure.

Claim 27 (new): The device as recited in claim 26, wherein the four-way valve is a proportional valve.

Claim 28 (new): The device as recited in claim 23, further comprising a media supply, and wherein the at least one needle valve includes a plurality of needle valves, each supplied with at least one of negative pressure and compressed air from the media supply.